

The University Players,
Department of Theatre and Drama,
present

Joe Turner's Come and Gone



Trueblood Theatre
November 8 - 18, 1990

Joe Turner's Come and Gone

by August Wilson

Director: Charles A. Jackson

Scenic Designer: Peter Gurski

Costume Designer: Dawn Meyer

Lighting Designer: Victor En Yu Tan

Sound Coordinators: Sam Cronk and Steve DeVries

Stage Manager: Sara Billmann

Cast (in order of appearance)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Seth Holly | Steve Dixon |
| Bertha Holly | Lillian Anita Kyser |
| Bynum Walker | Marvin Sims |
| Rutherford Selig | Jason Dilly |
| Jeremy Furlow | Randall Kirk Gibbs |
| Herald Loomis | Joniah Martin |
| Zonia Loomis | Kristen Allen |
| Mattie Campbell | Angela M. Peaks |
| Reuben Mercer | Darnell Jones |
| Molly Cunningham | Kellie Henderson |
| | Laurita M. Kaigler |
| Martha Loomis | Sharon Tucker |

A boarding house in Pittsburgh, 1911

There will be one intermission.

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Unauthorized use of cameras or recording devices in this theatre is strictly forbidden. In everyone's interest, latecomers will not be seated until a suitable break or scene change.

Children must have a ticket and be at least three years old to attend. Children unable to sit quietly through a performance may be asked to leave.

About the play

It is August in Pittsburgh, 1911. The sun falls out of heaven like a stone. The fires of the steel mill rage with a combined sense of industry and progress. Barges loaded with coal and iron ore trudge up the river to the mill towns that dot the Monongahela and return with fresh, hard, gleaming steel. The city flexes its muscles. Men throw countless bridges across the rivers, lay roads and carve tunnels through the hills sprouting with houses.

From the deep and the near South the sons and daughters of newly freed African slaves wander into the city. Isolated, cut off from memory, having forgotten the names of the gods and only guessing at their faces, they arrive dazed and stunned, their hearts kicking in their chests with a song worth singing. They arrive carrying Bibles and guitars, their pockets lined with dust and fresh hope, marked men and women seeking to scrape from the narrow crooked cobbles and fiery blasts of the coke furnace a way of bludgeoning and shaping the malleable parts of themselves into a new identity as free men of definite and sincere worth.

Foreigners in a strange land, they carry as part and parcel of their baggage a long line of separation and dispersment which informs their sensibilities and marks their conduct as they search for ways to reconnect, to reassemble, to give clear and luminous meaning to the song which is both a wail and a whelp of joy.

—August Wilson

About the Playwright

August Wilson, a native of Pittsburgh, began his work in the theatre in 1968 when he founded Pittsburgh's Black Horizon's Theatre. Up until that point, he was regarded as a poet. His poetry has been published in various magazines and anthologies, including *Black Poets of the Twentieth Century*. Wilson's first play to receive a major production was *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, which was first presented in 1984 at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Moving to Broadway, it was named Best Play by the New York Drama Critics' Circle and was also nominated for a Tony. His next play, *Fences*, opened at the Yale Rep in 1985, traveled to Chicago and Seattle, and then went to Broadway in 1987, where it won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize. *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* was first produced at Yale in 1986. His most recent play, *The Piano Lesson*, co-premiered at the Yale Rep and Boston's Huntington Theatre in the spring of 1990, won the Pulitzer Prize, and is still enjoying considerable success on Broadway.

About the cast

Kristen Allen (*Zonia Loomis*) Huron High School - senior - Ann Arbor, MI,
Jason Dilly (*Rutherford Selig*) Musical Theatre - junior - Southfield, MI
Steve Dixon (*Seth Holly*) Ann Arbor, MI
Randall Kirk Gibbs (*Jeremy Furlow*) LSA - freshman - Detroit, MI
Kellie Henderson (*Molly Cunningham*) Education (EMU) - Ann Arbor, MI
Darnell Jones (*Reuben Mercer*) English and Communication - sophomore - Lansing, MI
Laurita M. Kaigler (*Molly Cuningham*) Film and Video Studies - sophomore - Boston, MA
Lillian Anita Kyser (*Bertha Holly*) Communication and Theatre - sophomore - Detroit, MI
Joniah Martin (*Herald Loomis*) Theatre and Drama - junior - Detroit, MI
Angela M. Peaks (*Mattie Campbell*) Theatre and Communication - junior - Detroit, MI
Marvin Sims (*Bynum Walker*) Ann Arbor, MI
Sharon Tucker (*Martha Loomis*) Biology - senior - Flint, MI

About the Artists

Peter Gurski (*Scenic Designer*)

- o Scenic designer, *The Mighty Gents*, University Players
- o Construction coordinator, *Angel of Death* (Movie of the Week), 1990
- o Production designer, *Lunatics*, 1989

Charles A. Jackson (*Director*)

- o Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Drama
- o Founder, African American Artists Unlimited Theatre Company
- o Director, *Long Time Since Yesterday*, *The Mighty Gents*, *Home* (University Players); *Out at Sea* (Detroit Repertory Theatre)
- o Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, *The Meeting*, 1515 Broadway Theatre (Detroit)

Dawn Meyer (*Costume Designer*)

- o MFA candidate in costume design, Department of Theatre and Drama
- o Costume designer, *The Breadshop*
- o Costume designer, *Onward, Onward, Onward*, Department of Theatre and Drama
- o Costume assistant, *¿De Donde?*, Public Theatre Festival Latino, New York

Victor En Yu Tan (*Lighting Designer*)

- o Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Drama
- o Lighting designer, *The Colored Museum*, New York Shakespeare Festival, Royal Court Theatre (London), Mark Taper Forum (Los Angeles)
- o Resident lighting designer, Pan Asian Repertory, New York. Works include current production of *Lucky Come Hawaii* (46th Street Playhouse)
- o Lighting designer, Humana Festival for New Playwrights, Actors Theatre (Louisville), 1988-1991

Acknowledgements

Percussion by Jamie Rusling, Jeff Koch, Brian Feller, Eric Antonow, Andrew Karp, and Jeremy Steinhoven

University Players is composed of undergraduate students in the Department of Theatre and Drama. Scenery, costumes, properties, and lighting were created by students and the staff of University Productions, the producing unit of the School of Music.

Which work of art was actually censored?

Henry and June

The Robert Mapplethorpe Exhibit

Tartuffe

In 1664, *Tartuffe* was hounded off the stage by outraged defenders of moral purity. Molière battled for five years with the King for the freedom of his pen. A production was finally permitted in Paris in 1669, and the comedy has gone on to become a classic, suitable even for schoolchildren.

TARTUFFE

University Players
Power Center

Dec. 6 - 8 at 8 PM; Dec. 9 at 2 PM

Tickets available at the League Ticket Office



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Dean: Paul Boylan

SCHOOL OF



MUSIC

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DRAMA

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager: Mark Sullivan

Technical Director (Power): Rolfe Bergsman

Technical Director (Frieze): Gary Decker

Production Stage Manager: Brett Finley

House Manager: Ralph Beebe

Properties Master: Michael Johannsen

Associate Properties Master: Leah Harris

Master Carpenter: Bill Abbott

Carpenter: Don Watkins

Master Electrician: Henry Reynolds

Scenic Artist: Tom Blevins

Scenic Painter: Katherine Isham

Costume Shop Manager (Power): Julie Edeburn

Costume Shop Manager (Frieze): John Gutoskey

Cutter/Draper: Mark A. Goff

Costume Technicians: Vickie L. Sadler, Sue Hamilton

House Technicians: Ron Cypert, Jim Haven, Barry LaRue

Office Assistant: Elizabeth Richmond

PRODUCTION CREWS

Assistant to the Costume Designer: Wilandrea Blair

Assistant Lighting Designer: Beth Krynicki

Costumes: Deborah Yegerlehner and students of Theatre 250

Lighting/Sound: Shannon Bigler, William Friedman, Brad Martin, Alan McCandless, Mark Russell, David Shafter, Rick Smith, Mimi Spaulding, Todd Tennis, Eric Wheatley, Randy Zaibek, and students of Theatre 250

Paint: Nicole Baker, Karin Block, Amy Heath*, Elissa Kohen*, Maria LaTour, Steven Lesser, Colleen Mooney, Dawn Querns, Ann Schneider, Peggy Trecker*, Sara Toth*, Christy Wright*

Props: Rachel Dillard, Kate Linebaugh, Patrick McCarthy, Eecole Copen, Holly McNulty, Nicole Baker, Maria S. Arisso, Julie Strand, Bob Michael†

Sets: Students of Theatre 250

RUNNING CREW

Lighting: Brian Brendel*

Sound: Jerri Dodge*

Props: Michelle Saunders

Wardrobe: Iris Fuchs*, Amy Heath*

*In fulfillment of coursework in the Department of Theatre and Drama.

†Supplied by IATSE Local 395